



The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



Have Yourself An Old Town Little Christmas

One of the events most often mentioned by people as their favorite part of living in Warrenton is the Town's wonderful Christmas celebration. Plan to experience the splendor and tradition of Christmas in Old Town Warrenton with friends and family this year.

It all officially begins Friday, December 2 at 6:00 PM, with Santa's official arrival in Warrenton, and the lighting of the Old Town Christmas Tree. GumDrop Square – rated a "Top 20 Event" in the Southeast, gets started that night as well. Then the festivities continue Friday nights in December with carolers, orchestras, choirs and merchant open house events. There's also a live nativity, hot cocoa and horse-drawn carriage rides to make Friday evenings festive in Town.

The crown jewel of Christmas in Old Town is the award-winning GumDrop Square and Santa's Secret Shop. You won't want to miss that.

See page 3 of the Town Crier for the schedule of holiday events in Warrenton this year. ■



New Year's Eve in Warrenton

Whether you're an old timer, pining for the good old days of Guy Lombardo, or a youngster, who's more hip to "New Years Rockin' Eve," you'll love First Night Warrenton, a family-friendly arts-oriented celebration of the new year.

First Night Warrenton is a tradition in the Town, a celebration of all that is great in a small community like Warrenton. It features all kinds of different entertainment at numerous venues all over Town, hayrides, edible treats, and ends with a verse or two of Auld Lang Zyne on the steps of the courthouse at midnight.

The best thing about First Night is that there's something for everyone. At some stages you'll

find music and entertainment just for kids, and at other places the joint will be jumping with rock, blues or ethnic music.

Last year, because of the nice weather, an estimated 1,600 people came to Old Town Warrenton for First Night. Different entertainers performed at over a dozen different sites – from local churches to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

As in years past, the Town has partnered with Bluemont to arrange the entertainment. Bluemont has a long history with the Town, presenting the Bluemont Concert Series all summer long on the Warren Green lawn, and arranging entertainment for First Night and other events. This year's celebration is sure to have the best in music, magic, puppets and other fun entertainment.

As always, First Night Warrenton is committed to being family-friendly, so it's alcohol-free.

Make your plans now for a wonderful New Year's Eve celebration with friends and neighbors on the streets of Old Town Warrenton.

As plans begin to come together for First Night, you can check the list of entertainers scheduled at the Bluemont website, www.bluemont.org. When the list is finalized, it will also be published in local papers. ■



Warrenton Christmas Parade

25 Years and Going Strong!

Join with the community in celebrating the Town of Warrenton's 25th anniversary of the Christmas Parade. It's a regular holiday treat that draws thousands of people to the streets of Old Town. And one person in particular – Santa! Once he makes his usual arrival aboard a fire engine, the holidays officially begin.

This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 AM. As part of the parade's "Silver Memories" theme and anniversary celebration, NBC Today Show weatherman (and local resident) Willard Scott will serve as parade marshal, announcing the parade procession with his own unique brand of humor and charm.



As always there will be music and song, twirling and dancing, colorful costumes, creative floats, and performers of all varieties.

Because of the popularity of the parade, the viewing area has been extended this year from 5th Street (on Main Street) to the Courthouse, and down Waterloo to Chestnut Street.

Third Annual "Season of Giving" Project

The annual Warrenton Christmas Parade is organized by the Fauquier chapter of WOW (Women of Wonder), a non-profit organization that unites women in friendship and community service.

As part of the parade event, the WOW Fauquier will once again be tying the fun to a worthy cause. This will be WOW's third year of raising funds for local non-profit organizations through the Warrenton Christmas Parade.



Last Christmas, WOW's "Season of Giving" project raised \$5,500 for the Fauquier Free Clinic, which serves those who have difficulty affording health care services. This year, the WOW project will raise funds for Community Touch, Inc., a local charity that provides food, clothing, shelter and assistance to members of our community in need. To learn more about this organization, visit their website at www.communitytouchinc.org.

It is through the generosity of parade sponsors and donors that WOW is able to offer this wonderful holiday fundraising event. Sponsorship is a fun, easy, personal approach to getting involved, or of advertising your business or organization within the community. To learn more, visit www.FauquierWOW.com, or contact warrentonparade@gmail.com. You can also call (540) 878-0908. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

WOW "Season of Giving" Project
P.O. Box. 313
Warrenton, VA 20188.

Along the parade route, look for WOW's Christmas elves, who will be taking up donations in their big red stockings. ■



Let it...Snow?

This year, just forget that Warrenton Town Code Section blah-di-blah-di-bah says you have to clear your sidewalks when the winter weather gets bad. Do it just because you're feeling "good will towards men," and everyone else, too!

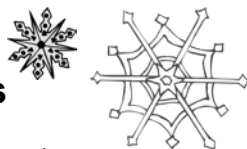
The official line is that "the occupant of any house and lot which abuts a paved sidewalk or a footway of stone, brick or wood is required to have all snow removed from the sidewalk or footway within six hours after the snow has ceased falling, unless the snow has fallen during the night or on a Sunday, in which case it shall be removed by 12 noon of the following day." How's that for a mouthful? The same deal applies when it's ice instead of snow. If you can't get the ice up, you're supposed to spread some sand or salt to make things safe for others.

If you're away for the holidays, you don't get out of your responsibility; it's the duty of the owner to do all this stuff even if the property is unoccupied.

Now... if you're a "bah, humbug" kind of person about the Town's snow and ice policy, you won't be visited by a Christmas ghost, but maybe one of Warrenton's finest! And, gosh, the price you'll pay for being a bonafide Scrooge is a real bummer. Each violation of the Code subsection is a Class 4 misdemeanor, and every six hours that you let the snow or ice remain constitutes a separate offense. The rules also say it's unlawful for any person removing ice or snow from his premises to place or deposit it upon any street or sidewalk.

But this is all common sense, really. Some call it the Golden Rule.

Snow Emergency Routes



Now is a good time to review the streets in Warrenton that are designated as Snow Emergency Routes. When the white stuff comes down, it's unlawful for any citizen or business to park a vehicle on any of the following streets during a snow emergency:

Alexandria Pike ■ Blackwell Road ■ Bear Wallow Road
Broadview Avenue ■ Culpeper Street ■ East & West Shirley
Avenue ■ Falmouth Street ■ Frost Avenue ■ Lee Highway
Main Street ■ Waterloo Road ■ Waterloo Street
Winchester Street

The police will remove (at your expense) any vehicles that are stalled, stuck, parked or abandoned on any of these streets during a snow.

During major storms, please try to move your vehicle off the street. This will make it easier for crews to plow, and also save you from getting plowed in.

If you have any questions about the snow ordinances or snow emergency procedures, call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■

Holiday Event Schedule

Friday, December 2, 6:00 PM

- * Lighting of the Mosby Museum
- * Illumination Walk and Arrival of Santa
- * GumDrop Square Opens: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- * Horse-drawn hayrides
- * Refreshments
- * Shops open late
- * Carolers and other entertainment

Saturday, December 3

- * Main Street Christmas Parade: 10:00 AM
(Begins at 5th and Main Streets)
- * GumDrop Square: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 4

- * GumDrop Square: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Friday, December 9

- * GumDrop Square: 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- * Horse-drawn hayrides
- * Refreshments
- * Shops open late
- * Carolers and other entertainment

Saturday, December 10

- * GumDrop Square: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 11

- * GumDrop Square: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Friday, December 16

- * GumDrop Square: 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Saturday, December 17

- * GumDrop Square: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sunday, December 18

- * GumDrop Square: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

For more information on Christmas in Old Town and GumDrop Square, please contact the Partnership for Warrenton office at (540) 349-8606.

Parks and WARF News!

Town Helps Pay Off Fun-for-All Playground

At a ceremony October 22, Mayor George Fitch presented community organizers of the WARF's "Fun-for-All" playground with a check for \$5,000 to cover the remaining expenses of the project. Spearheaded by local parents with special needs children, the Fun-for-All Committee fundraised and built the unique playground on the WARF grounds. It is equipped with play equipment suitable for children of all ability levels.



The gift was made during a celebration of Differing Abilities Day at the WARF, an event designed to draw attention to the needs and contributions of kids overcoming various disabilities, and to the caregivers who support them. Hosted by the Fauquier County Disability Services Board, the event featured information tables and demonstrations. One of the highlights was the presence of numerous service dogs and their handlers.

During the event, the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF) was awarded with the "Disability Friendly" award by the Board. The award recognized the WARF for encouraging and supporting an all-inclusive environment for each and every person.

Team Dennie Participates in 2nd Annual Warrenton Triathlon



The 2nd Annual Warrenton Triathlon was held at the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility on Sunday, September 18th. In remembrance of Dennie Sutherland, former Town of Warrenton Councilman, relay "Team Dennie" made its second appearance, having competed in the first Warrenton Triathlon last year.

The team added a distinguished new member for this year's run portion of the race – Robert Gurtler, Mayor of The Plains. Gurtler was joined by Warrenton Mayor George Fitch, for the swim portion, and WARF Aquatics Supervisor, Matt Keiper, for the bike portion.

The triathlon included a 300-yard swim, 11 mile bike race and a 5K run. Team Dennie completed the race with a total relay time of 1:17:36. Congratulations Team Dennie!

Other participants included WARF employees Sarah Doucet, Steve DiSimone and Brittany McCauley. Thanks to Set Up Events for coordinating the event. For more information about Set Up Events and the Warrenton Triathlon, please visit www.setupevents.com.



From left, Jane Burnette and Dwain Cox (of the Disability Services Board), Linda Reid (Chairman of the Fun-for-All Playground Committee and member of the Disability Services Board), Mayor Fitch, Margaret Rice (WARF), and Catherine Zimmer (WARF).

Eva Walker Park... Now Even Better!

At a ceremony on October 29, the Town of Warrenton celebrated several improvements made to Eva Walker Park, located on Alexandria Pike. The Town recently resurfaced the basketball court and added some new pieces of fitness equipment, including a sit-up bench, curl-up bench and chin-up bars. Instructional signage on how to use the equipment also has been placed.

Eva Walker Park is managed by the Town of Warrenton's Parks and Recreation Department. The department also manages Rady Park, Academy Hill Park, Gold Cup Park and the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF).



Cutting the ribbon, from left to right, Dr. Ritchie Knight, Mayor George Fitch, Councilwoman Joan Williams and Town Manager Ken McLawhon.

WARF, continued from page 4

High School Swim Season at the WARF

High School swim team season is in full swing at the WARF. The season started on November 7, and will run through February 9. Teams from local schools are practicing at the WARF weekday early mornings and in the afternoons from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Please expect higher volumes of swimmers in the Competition Pool during these times.

Team rental of the pool by local swim teams helps to increase traffic and revenue for the WARF while also helping local youth have more opportunities to develop their interest in swimming. Swim meets at the WARF provide local swimmers with the opportunity to compete in their home pool.

The community is always welcome to attend both high school and US swim meets to cheer on local swimmers. For more information about lap lane availability and the swim meet schedule during High School swim season, please visit the front desk at the WARF or call (540) 349-2520.

Holiday Gift Cards at the WARF

WARF Gift Cards make the perfect gift for the holidays, because there's something for everyone at the WARF. Gift Cards are sold in increments of 5, 10 and 20-visit passes. Receive two FREE WARF day passes with every 20-visit WARF Holiday Gift Card purchased.

WARF Holiday Hours of Operation

Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 24 – Closed
 Christmas Eve – Sat., December 24 – Close at 12:00 noon
 Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25 – Closed
 New Years Eve – Saturday, December 31 – Close at 3:00 PM
 New Years Day – Sunday, January 1 – Closed

Winter Aquatics at the WARF

Registration for Winter 2012 Aquatics Classes begins Tuesday, November 29 for members and Thursday, December 1 for non-members. Classes will be offered once a week for 7 weeks, January 3 – February 25. Classes are available for ages 6 months to adult in all skill levels. It's never too early or late to improve swimming and water safety skills!

Also, ask about the WARF's Winter Swim Club. This non-competitive, fun swim club is a continuation of the swim lessons program. The focus is on proper technique and performance in the four strokes – freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly. ■

Holiday Refuse Schedule

Thanksgiving – November 24

Monday, 11/21/11 – Regular refuse collection

Tuesday, 11/22/11 – Regular refuse collection

Wednesday, 11/23/11 – Recycling collection
(cardboard, newspaper & blue bags)

Thursday, 11/24/11 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Friday, 11/25/11 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Christmas – December 25

Monday, 12/26/11 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 12/27/11 – Monday & Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 12/28/11 – Recycling collection
(cardboard, newspaper & blue bags)

Thursday, 12/29/11 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 12/30/11 – Regular refuse collection

New Years – January 1

Monday, 1/2/12 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 1/3/12 – Monday & Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 1/4/12 – Recycling collection
(cardboard, newspaper & blue bags)

Thursday, 1/5/12 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 1/6/12 – Regular refuse collection

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Jan. 16

Monday, 1/16/12 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 1/17/12 – Monday & Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 1/18/12 – Recycling collection
(cardboard, newspaper & blue bags)

Thursday, 1/19/12 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 1/20/12 – Regular refuse collection

Presidents Day – February 20

Monday, 2/20/12 – Holiday; no refuse collection

Tuesday, 2/21/12 – Monday & Tuesday's refuse collections

Wednesday, 2/22/12 – Recycling collection
(cardboard, newspaper & blue bags)

Thursday, 2/23/12 – Regular refuse collection

Friday, 2/24/12 – Regular refuse collection

During the holidays, there will be a refuse truck available at 360 Falmouth Street, for anyone wishing to dispose of refuse. ■

Plan in Winter, Plant in Spring

Most people do little with their trees, shrubs, and gardens in the winter, so it's the perfect time to undertake an important process – planning. Good planning now will help utilize available space, minimize future problems, and assure that your yard and gardens look tip-top in the next growing season.

The first part of planning for the next growing season is to identify your planting objectives. Determining your objectives will guide all of your planning, and help you reach your gardening goals! Some common objectives include:

- Add colorful spring flowering plants to my yard
- Plant trees that will offer attractive fall color
- Increase the wildlife habitat around my property
- Grow more edible fruits
- Reduce lawn maintenance
- Create some visual screening between my yard and the neighbors

Keep your objectives realistic and general so the information you gather in later steps can guide you to selecting the right plant for the right location.

The second step in planning is determining available space. Consider proximity to adjacent plants, buildings, overhead utility lines, buried cables, French drains, dry wells, and fences. Do you need to remove plants for more space? How much sun, shade, and moisture will your planting area have? Talk to your neighbors about doing plantings adjacent to each other.

Now that you've determined the space you have to plant, do a soil test. Test kits and instructions are available from the Virginia Cooperative Extension office at 24 Pelham Street. One sample should be sufficient for any property in Warrenton. Follow the instructions that come with the test kit.

The fourth step is finally deciding what to plant. Consider all of the information you've gathered:

- * What sort of plants you want – trees, shrubs, groundcover?
- * What functions they should serve – visual screen, people or wildlife food, flower, fall color?
- * Site limitations – size limits, amount of sunlight, water availability, soil suitability?

While you have narrowed down the list of possible plants considerably, there are still many possibilities. Use Virginia native plants whenever and wherever possible. Use single plants that can meet multiple objectives. For example, pecan trees provide food and shade, persimmon trees provide wildlife food and gorgeous fall foliage, strawberries are food and groundcover. There are great resources on the Internet to help with your plant selections. Here are a few websites to start researching plants for your property:



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml
Use the links on the right side of the page for lists of plants by region and their site requirements

Virginia Native Plant Society

www.vnps.org
Click on the "Growing Natives" tab. The Virginia Native Plant Society is a wonderful source of information on native and non-native plants, and sources for native plants.

University of Nebraska at Lincoln

www.unl.edu/nac/morepublications/sfp3.pdf
This site lists edible plants and their site requirements. Many are suitable for Virginia.

Fauquier County Master Gardeners

www.fc-mg.org
The Fauquier County Master Gardeners can be contacted at (540) 341-7950, x219.



See if local nurseries carry or can get the plants you want. If not, consult the list of nurseries on the Virginia Native Plants website. For trees and shrubs, try www.BuyVirginiaTrees.com. Many plants can be mail ordered and shipped from anywhere in the country, but make sure your order can be shipped from the state the nursery is in to Virginia (insects and diseases have resulted in plant quarantines).

Lastly, get ready to plant! The plants you order may be shipped in winter or early spring. Plant bare-root seedlings soon after they are received. Potted seedlings can wait a little longer. Most mail order nurseries will ship your seedlings at the correct time for planting or as you specify.

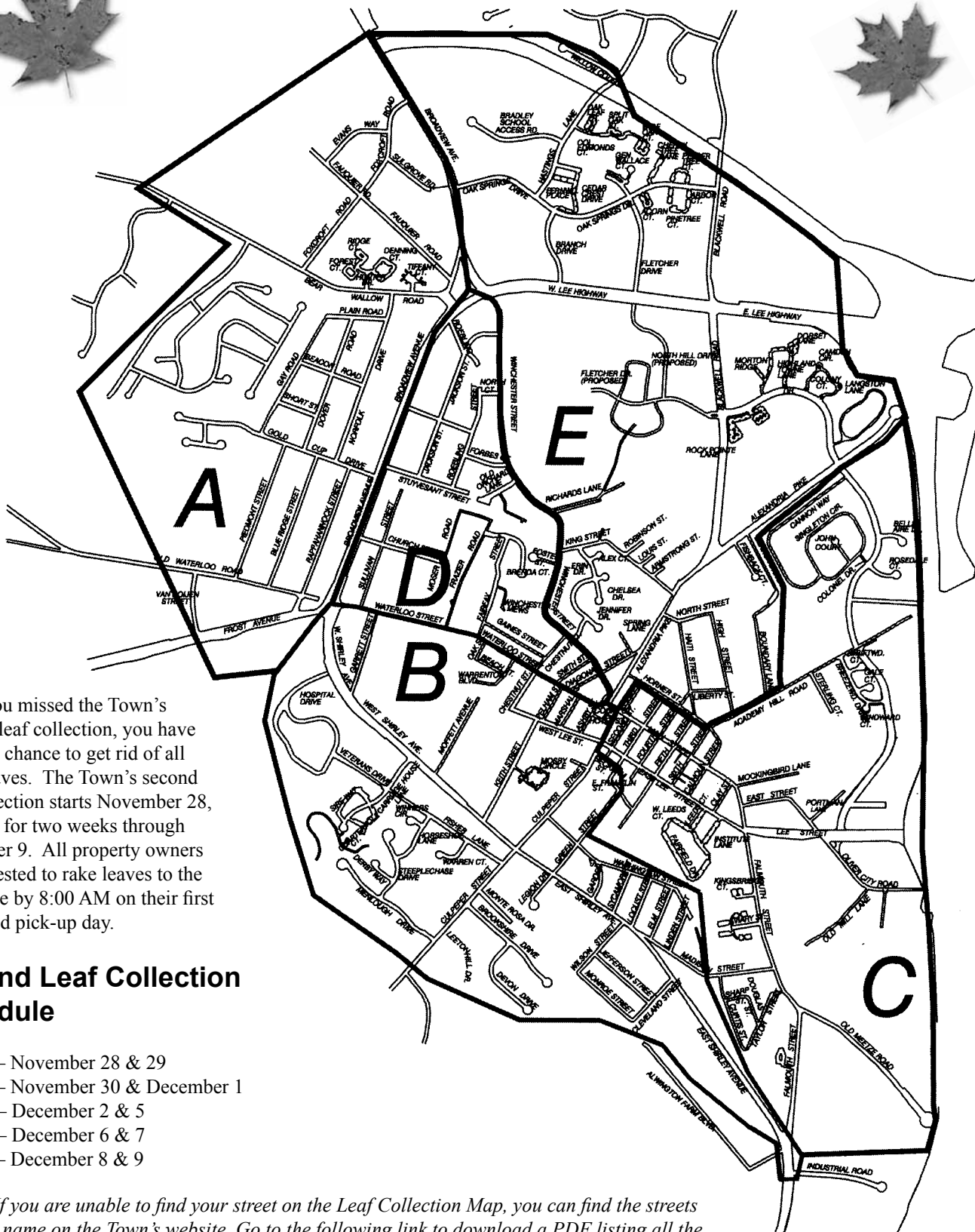
Happy Planning, and Happy Planting! ■



*The Warrenton
Tree Board*



Second Leaf Collection Details



If you missed the Town's first fall leaf collection, you have a second chance to get rid of all those leaves. The Town's second leaf collection starts November 28, and runs for two weeks through December 9. All property owners are requested to rake leaves to the street line by 8:00 AM on their first scheduled pick-up day.

Second Leaf Collection Schedule

Area A – November 28 & 29

Area B – November 30 & December 1

Area C – December 2 & 5

Area D – December 6 & 7

Area E – December 8 & 9

NOTE: If you are unable to find your street on the Leaf Collection Map, you can find the streets listed by name on the Town's website. Go to the following link to download a PDF listing all the streets by area: <http://www.warrentonva.gov/Services/PublicWorks/FallCleanUp.aspx> ■



Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Finance Department.....	347-1102
Inspections	347-2405
Maintenance Shop.....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief	347-1105
Police Station	347-1107
Non-emergency	347-1100
Emergency	911
Planning and Zoning	347-2405
Recreation Department (Aquatic Center)	349-2520
Recycling	347-1858
Sewage Plant.....	347-1104
Town Hall.....	347-1101
Town Manager	347-4505
Utilities.....	347-6574
Water Bills.....	347-2678
Water Plant.....	347-1103
TTD/TTY	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**

Don't Forget...

**2011 Real Estate and
Personal Property Bills
are due December 15, 2011.**



Tree Pick-Up Reminder

Town crews will start picking up of Christmas trees the week of January 9 - 13. Town residents should place their trees at the street line by 8:00 AM on Monday, January 9th. Trees will be collected throughout the week, starting at one end of Town and working across Town. Trees not at the street line will not be picked up. These trees are fed through a chipper, so all stands, wood, wire, nails, etc. should be removed. If you have any questions call Public Works at (540) 347-1858.

WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20186

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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TOWN COUNCIL

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citizens of the major events which affect our government and
community.

The Town Crier

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